

Notification of Hungarian-Slovakian stretches of inland waterways with specific risks pursuant to Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2017/2397

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary and the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic hereby notifies that in the course of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland waterway transport, the Hungarian-Slovakian common Danube sections of the River Danube, is to be designated as inland waterway sections with special risks pursuant to Article 9 of the Directive:

The reasons for the classification as inland waterway section the stretch of the River Danube from Sap to mouth of the River Ipoly (river km 1811 to 1708) with special risks are:

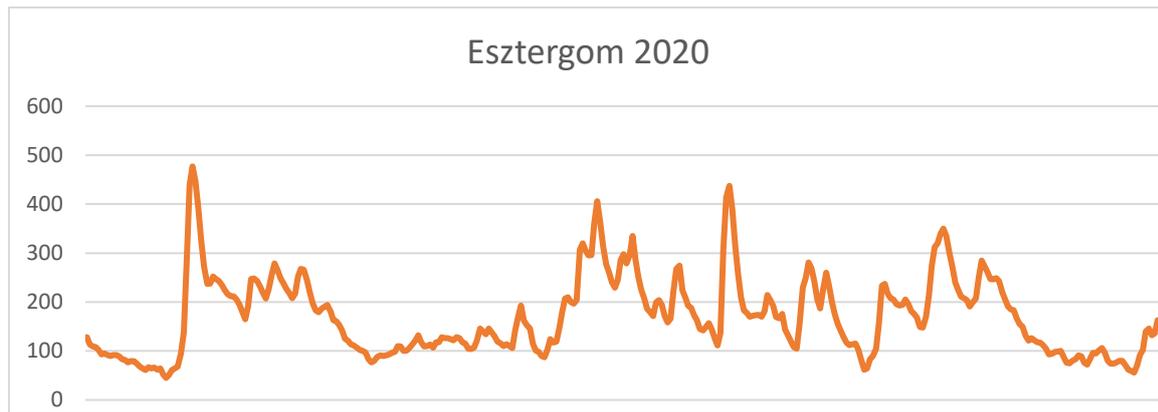
The Hungarian-Slovakian common stretch of the Danube is a complex watercourse river and at the time of flood flows, the entire stretch is characterised by significant level changes over a 24-hour period. It is a section with frequently changing stream patterns and speed according to Article 9 (1) (a) of the Directive.

The Slovak-Hungarian common section of the Danube from Sap to mouth of the River Ipoly (with 19 registered bottleneck) has the most extreme water conditions and the highest water velocities, the water level can change 200 cm in a day. The Danube becomes free-flowing again from the Bós/Gabčíkovo power plant's downstream canal. This section has the narrowest fairway parameters, with densely built river control structures, sections unsuitable for vessel meeting, and a difference of more than twice between low and high water speeds. According to Article 9 (1) (a) of the Directive following sections are with variable cross currents depending on the water level with rocky river ground by Nyergesújfalu (river km 1735,5-1733,7 and 1732,4-1731,9), with hard river ground by Helemba (river km 1711,3-1710,7) and the area of the mouth of the River Medve Danube (river km 1808,1-1807,6) and River Mosoni Danube (river km 1796,3,1-1795,3) with gravel river bottom. These sections is subject to permanent and several temporary local regulations according to Article 9 (1) (c).

The Gönyü gauge is relevant for this section the difference between the minimum (-93 cm) and maximum (867 cm) water levels is 960 cm. The following graph shows the frequency of water level fluctuations and especially the very steep gradients.



The Esztergom gauge is relevant for this section the difference between the minimum (-21 cm) and maximum (813 cm) water levels is 834 cm. The following graph shows the frequency of water level fluctuations and especially the very steep gradients.



On the whole Hungarian-Slovakian common stretch of the River Danube, boatmasters need special knowledge of the hydromorphological characteristics of these sections but also of the special local traffic rules in order to navigate these sections safely. Therefore, Article point c) of Article 9 of the Directive is also applicable.

The proof of compliance with these additional requirements must be provided by 8 upstream and 8 downstream journeys on the waterway section concerned and a multiple choice test in line with Article 20 (1) of the Directive. The exam can be taken on any part of the stretch between any two kilometres, whether it is a closed stretch or a side of the stretch where the candidate has met the exam criteria and wants to take the exam.

For the assessment of the examination, objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate criteria will be applied.

The specific local navigation rules for the Hungarian-Slovak Danube section are laid down in the Ministerial Decree (57/2011 (XI.22.) NFM rendelet a víziközlekedés rendjéről) and available on the website of the Danube Commission in the three official languages:

<https://www.danubecommission.org/uploads/doc/publication/Lokale%20Sciff%20Reg%20012/Lokal%20HU%202013%20-%20DE.pdf>

The temporary specific local navigation rules are available on the PannonRIS website:

https://pannonris.hu/en/szolgaltatasok/hszh-k?ftm_type=62978&ftm_number=&ftm_subject_code=62991&ftm_validity=&ftm_fairway_name=&title=

The specific local navigation rules for the Hungarian-Slovak Danube section will be laid down in the Decree of the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic No. 381/2021 Coll. in Annex No. 3 and the temporary specific local navigation rules are published on the website of the Transport Authority: <http://plavba.nsat.sk/plavebna-bezpecnost/plavebne-opatrenia/>.